

In Case You Missed It

June 30, 2006

DHS' INTEGRATED RESPONSE TO NORTHEAST FLOODING

PA Governor Ed Rendell – “FEMA And the Coast Guard...Were With Us From The Beginning”: “There were a total of 13 helicopters that went into operation in the north, central and northeastern parts of the state. Seven were National Guard helicopters. Four were state police helicopters. Two were from the Coast Guard. And let me say, FEMA and the Coast Guard cooperated with us. They were with us from the beginning here, even before the first flooding started to occur. Those 13 helicopters made over 1,200 water rescues. 1,200 Water rescues. Scenes like this, scenes from rooftops in 16 to 17 occasions, big baskets came down to lift people off of rooftops and the tops of houses. But in total, 1,200 water rescues.” (Governor Ed Rendell, Press Conference, *CNN*, 06/29/06)

What They're Saying

Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Thad Allen – FEMA And The Coast Guard Are A “Perfect Marriage” Within DHS: “We are leaning very far forward and we're much better off this year than we were last year... I worked with FEMA before we moved to the new department and I worked with them since then. I think this is a perfect marriage.” (CNN's Situation Room, 05/30/06)

Security Expert Frank Cilluffo – Removing FEMA From DHS Is A “Politically Expedient Solution” That Does Not Address Real Issues: “‘Spinning off FEMA doesn't really get to the root of the real problems,’ said Frank J. Cilluffo, director of George Washington University's Homeland Security Policy Institute and a former special assistant to President Bush. ‘It's a politically expedient solution . . . that would give a false sense of security...’” (Spencer Hsu, “Can Congress Rescue FEMA?”, *Washington Post*, 06/26/06)

FEMA Director David Paulison – Being Part of DHS “Gives Us So Many More Tools Than Before”: “Well, let me say that during Hurricane Andrew, I was on the receiving end of FEMA. I was the Fire Chief of Miami-Dade County. However, I feel like that being inside of Homeland Security gives us so many more tools than before. We have the Border Patrol. We have ICE. We have the Coast Guard at our fingertips. Resources would not be right there were we not inside Homeland Security...I've gotten a tremendous amount of support out of Secretary Chertoff...I couldn't ask for more support than I'm getting.” (Chief David Paulison, *CNN's American Morning*, 4/28/2006)

Senators Collins and Lieberman – FEMA's Withdrawal Would “Weaken The Agency”: “FEMA's withdrawal from DHS can only weaken the agency further and transfer its problems elsewhere. It is the wrong way to go if we are serious about protecting American lives.” (Washington Times, 05/26/06)

Representative David Reichert – “Don’t Separate FEMA”: “Removing FEMA from the Homeland Security Department would not be the right answer. The existence of two federal agencies -- one for terrorism and one for natural disasters -- would only exacerbate coordination problems, result in redundant activities and programs, and undermine our efforts to create a truly ‘all-hazards’ approach to emergency management... Stove-piping response capabilities in separate federal agencies, both of which would be working with the same local first responders, would lead to more problems and confusion.” (Rep. David Reichert, “Don’t Separate FEMA”, *Washington Post*, 05/15/06)

What DHS Is Doing

BUILDING AN INTEGRATED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

THE CONSEQUENCES OF SEPARATING FEMA FROM DHS WOULD BE SEVERE

Separating FEMA from DHS would create a duplication of efforts, take valuable resources away from the agency’s fingertips, and make coordination more bureaucratic.

- Yanking FEMA From the Department Would Create a Duplication of Efforts: Creating two separate agencies to deal with terrorism and natural disasters would be wasteful at best and confusing at worst. A breach in the Hoover Dam, for example, could hypothetically be caused by a natural disaster or by a terrorist act. If anything, 9/11 taught us that response efforts cannot be stove piped. Our efforts cannot be delayed while responders determine what type of event has occurred.
- Now is Not the Time to Rearrange Org Charts: Hurricane season is upon us. DHS and FEMA are focused on preparations for any potential disaster. Ripping FEMA from DHS at this time would cripple our nation’s ability to prepare for and respond to a major storm, be a disservice to state and local governments as they prepare, and serve as a disincentive to employees. DHS and FEMA need time to implement our plans and strengthen our capabilities, rather than undergo a continual rearranging of org charts.
- Pulling FEMA From DHS Would Make Coordination More Difficult and Increase Bureaucracy: As part of the Department, FEMA does not require the use of time-consuming and bureaucratic processes to coordinate directly with DHS components such as the Coast Guard. If FEMA were a separate agency, these assets would have to be mission-assigned, structures for payments and per diems would have to be established, and the chain of command would be complicated. We need to finish the work of integration.
- Joint Operations Worked During Katrina: We were successful during Katrina when all the resources of DHS were leveraged. The Coast Guard and FEMA rescued over 40,000 people. TSA established an air bridge and evacuated 22,000 individuals and roughly 1,500 CBP, ICE, and Secret Service officers were quickly

made available to support local law enforcement. These types of operations would be made much more difficult if FEMA were a separate agency.

- FEMA Can Now Leverage DHS' Preparedness Directorate: FEMA must respond to various types of incidents. DHS' Preparedness Directorate strengthens and consolidates existing preparedness efforts across DHS, including planning, training, exercising, and funding to ensure a focused direction. In October 2005, Congress supported this structure and appropriated \$4 billion for its creation. FEMA would lose easy access to this critical resource with any separation.
- DHS' Preparedness Directorate Allows FEMA to Focus on its Core Mission: Prior to the creation of the Preparedness Directorate, no single organization within the federal government was responsible for integrating national preparedness activities across all preparedness stakeholders. FEMA is not responsible for national preparedness – it is responsible for preparing to tactics and operations to respond to specific emergencies.
- Preparedness is Broader than FEMA: The traditional preparedness mission at FEMA was relatively narrow in size and scope. Some examples of the preparedness efforts under DHS that FEMA can now leverage are:
 - United States Coast Guard: The Coast Guard is the world's premiere maritime organization responsible for Maritime Search and Rescue, Port Safety and Security, Environmental Protection, and Defense Operations, and has primary oversight of the implementation of the Maritime Transportation Security Act.
 - United States Secret Service: The Secret Service is responsible for planning and executing National Special Security Events.
 - Office of Grants and Training: The Office of Grants and Training was responsible for development of the National Preparedness Goal as per HSPD-8 and has been instrumental in supporting and coordinating State and local training and exercises.
 - Chief Medical Officer: Our Chief Medical Officer, in concert with the Department of Health and Human Services and the White House Homeland Security Council, is responsible for developing the nation's Pandemic Flu plan and oversees our nation's preparedness for biological threats and incident.
 - Infrastructure Protection: The Radiological Emergency Preparedness program and the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness program are now managed by the Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection.
 - Office of State and Local Government Coordination: The Office of State and Local Government Coordination regularly coordinates with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners and has a significant role in intergovernmental affairs.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, DHS IS BUILDING AN INTEGRATED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

DHS is an all-hazards agency. We must complete the work of integration rather than return to a disjointed approach. Under Secretary Chertoff, DHS is providing FEMA the 21st tools and capabilities it deserves.

- An Experienced and Capable Leadership Team Has Been Named for FEMA: David Paulison is a distinguished, well-respected emergency manager, with over 30 years of experience at local, state, and federal levels who has led the agency's efforts for 25 disaster declarations. David Paulison's broad experience and dedication will be invaluable as we retool FEMA for the 21st century. The new senior leadership team brings over 100 years of combined experience to the agency.
- Stocking Relief Supplies: Four times the MREs, 2.5 times that water, and four times the ice are available this year than for Hurricane Katrina. These supplies will be able to sustain 1 million people for roughly one week.
- Building a Cutting-Edge Logistics System: DHS has developed a GPS tracking system for relief supplies including water, ice, and MREs. The system is currently in place in FEMA regions IV (Atlanta) and VI (Fort Worth) and will track 20,000 supply trucks in much the same way that private sector entities track their goods.
- Strengthening Lines of Communication and Coordination: DHS is building enhanced communications capabilities for federal, state, and local responders in the event of a collapse of the normal communications system. Emergency teams are being built to gather information, and we are improving our coordinating processes to ensure the availability of timely, accurate information.
- Enhancing FEMA's Customer Service: We are improving FEMA's abilities to receive requests for assistance, protect against fraud and abuse and adjust to changing needs of disaster populations during significant recovery periods. FEMA will have the capacity to handle at least 200,000 assistance calls a day.
- Expediting the Pace of Debris Removal: Katrina left over 100 million cubic yards of debris in its wake over a span of 90,000 square miles. In order to streamline the debris removal process and ensure quick reimbursement, FEMA will work to establish solid contracting practices to help communities begin recovery operations quickly.